



07-12-01

Express Mail No. ET160381264US 0300  
Attorney Docket No.: AM-2772.P1

**THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

IN RE APPLICATION OF: Ajay Kumar et al.

SERIAL NO.: 09/882,323

FILED: June 13, 2001

FOR: METHOD FOR ETCHING SILICON NITRIDE

§ GROUP ART UNIT: Unknown

§ EXAMINER: Unknown

§ Attorney Docket No.:

§ AM-2772.P1

#4

Date: July 11, 2001

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
TRANSMITTAL LETTER**

**Hon. Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231**


Sir:

Applicants are submitting the subject Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR § 1.97(b)(1). This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted within three (3) months of the filing date of the subject application.

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR 1.10**

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as U.S. EXPRESS MAIL NO. ET160381264US in an envelope addressed to the: Commissioner for Patents, Box DD, Washington, DC 20231.

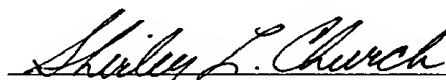
Date: July 11, 2001

  
Shirley L. Church, Reg. No. 31,858

Applicants do not believe that any fee is due in connection with the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR § 1.97(b)(1). However, in the event that any additional fee is due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1512 of Shirley L. Church, Sunnyvale, California, in the amount of such fee.

This transmittal letter is submitted in duplicate for accounting purposes.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Shirley L. Church", is written over a horizontal line.

Shirley L. Church  
Registration No. 31,858  
Attorney for Applicants

Correspondence Address:  
Patent Counsel  
Applied Materials, Inc.  
P.O. Box 450-A  
Santa Clara, California 95052



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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
UNDER 37 CFR § 1.97(b)(1)**

**Hon. Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231**

Sir:


In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.97(b)(1), applicants hereby request consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement. This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted within three (3) months of the filing date of the subject application or before an Office Action on the merits. Applicants are providing herewith a copy of each document cited on the attached Form PTO-1449.

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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR 1.10**

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as U.S. EXPRESS MAIL NO. ET160381264US in an envelope addressed to the: Commissioner for Patents, Box DD, Washington, DC 20231.

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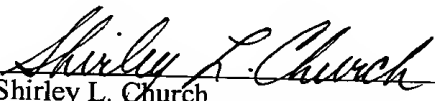
  
Shirley L. Church, Reg. No. 31,858

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The submission of this Information Disclosure Statement and Form PTO-1449 is not an admission that the art cited is "prior art" with respect to the present invention, nor is it a representation that no better art exists. Applicants hereby reserve the right to swear behind or otherwise disprove any alleged "prior" nature of any art cited should the facts support and the situation warrant such an action.

If the Examiner has any questions, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Shirley L. Church  
Registration No. 31,858  
Attorney for Applicants  
(408) 245-5109

Correspondence Address:  
Patent Counsel  
Applied Materials, Inc.  
P.O. Box 450-A  
Santa Clara, California 95052



FORM PTO-1449  
(Equivalent)

U.S. Department of Commerce  
Patent and Trademark Office

U.S. Application Serial No.  
09/882,323

Atty. Docket No.  
AM-2772.P1

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

Ajay Kumar et al.  
Applicants

(Use several sheets if necessary)

June 13, 2001  
Filing Date

Group

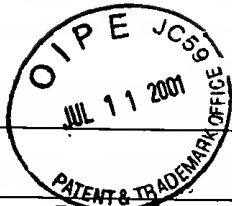
U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial	Document Number	Issue Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date If Appropriate
_____	Re. 30,505	02/03/81	Jacob	156	643	
_____	4,615,764*	10/07/86	Bobbio et al.	156	643	
_____	4,793,897	12/27/88	Dunfield et al.	156	643	
_____	5,211,790	05/18/93	Tatsumi	156	662	
_____	5,362,361	11/08/94	Tatsumi	156	662	
_____	5,397,431	03/14/95	Kadomura	156	662	
_____	5,721,090*	02/24/98	Okamoto et al.	430	313	
_____	5,753,418	05/19/98	Tsai et al.	430	313	
_____	5,779,926*	07/14/98	Ma et al.	216	67	
_____	5,817,579	10/06/98	Ko et al.	438	740	
_____	5,910,392*	06/08/99	Nozaki et al.	430	270.1	
_____	5,911,887*	06/15/99	Smith et al.	216	72	

Examiner Date Considered

Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

\* Cited by the Examiner in the parent application.



### U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

<u>Examiner Initial</u>	<u>Document Number</u>	<u>Issue Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Subclass</u>	<u>Filing Date If Appropriate</u>
—	6,080,678	06/27/00	Yim	438	725	
—	6,110,826*	08/29/00	Lou et al.	438	674	
—	6,132,631*	10/17/00	Nallan et al.	216	16	

### FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

<u>Examiner Initial</u>	<u>Document Number</u>	<u>Publication Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Subclass</u>	<u>Translation If Appropriate</u>
—	WO 9616437	05/30/96	Chen	H01L	21/311	

### OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

- W. R. Runyan and K. E. Bean, "Semiconductor integrated circuit processing technology," Addison-Wesley Publishing Company, pp. 268 - 280 (1990).
- U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/907,448, of Nallan et al.

Examiner \_\_\_\_\_ Date Considered \_\_\_\_\_

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